

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for assembling a blood treatment circuit by aseptically connecting a connected bag set, which has previously been sterilized, and a filter unit, which has previously been sterilized, to each other, said connected bag set being composed of a primary bag holding collected blood and a secondary bag holding blood or blood components and a first tube to connect said primary bag to said secondary bag, said filter unit having an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from a fluid introduced through said inlet, and a second tube, both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet, wherein said method comprises a step of aseptically connecting said first tube to said second tube by using an apparatus for aseptically connecting tubes, thereby placing said filter unit along said first tube.

2. (Original) A method for assembling a blood treatment circuit, said method comprising the steps of:

sterilizing a connected bag set which is composed of a primary bag holding collected blood and a secondary bag holding blood or blood components and a first tube to connect said primary bag to said secondary bag;

sterilizing a filter unit having an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from a fluid introduced through said inlet, and a second tube, both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet; and

aseptically connecting said first tube to said second tube by using an apparatus for aseptically connecting tubes, thereby placing said filter unit along said first tube.

3. (Original) A method for assembling a blood treatment circuit by aseptically connecting a connected bag set, which has previously sterilized, and a filter unit, which has previously sterilized, to each other, said connected bag set being composed of a primary bag holding collected blood and a plurality of secondary bags holding blood or blood components and a first tube to connect said primary bag to said secondary bags and a third tube to connect said secondary bags to one another, said filter unit having an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from a fluid introduced through said inlet, and a second tube, both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet, wherein said method comprises a step of aseptically connecting said third tube to said second tube by using an apparatus for aseptically connecting tubes, thereby placing said filter unit along said third tube.

4. (Original) A method for assembling a blood treatment circuit, said method comprising the steps of:

sterilizing a connected bag set which is composed of a primary bag holding collected blood and a plurality of secondary bags holding blood or blood components, a first tube to connect said primary bag to said secondary bags, and a third tube that connects said secondary bags to one another;

sterilizing a filter unit having an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from a fluid introduced through said inlet, and a second tube both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet; and

aseptically connecting said third tube to said second tube by using an apparatus for aseptically connecting tubes, thereby placing said filter unit along said third tube.

5. (Original) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 1, wherein said first tube and/or said second tube has a mark that indicates the position of its connection.

6. (Original) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 2, wherein said first tube and/or said second tube has a mark that indicates the position of its connection.

7. (Original) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 3, wherein said second tube and/or said third tube has a mark that indicates the position of its connection.

8. (Original) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 4, wherein said second tube and/or said third tube has a mark that indicates the position of its connection.

9. (Currently Amended) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in ~~any one of Claims 5 to 8~~ Claim 5, wherein said mark indicates the direction of flow of fluid in the tube.

10. (Currently Amended) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein said tube has an additional mark indicating that the tubes have been correctly connected to each other.

11. (Original) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 10, wherein said additional marks are formed by expanding the outside diameter of the tube.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein said connected bag set and said filter unit are sterilized in different manners or under different conditions.

13. (Original) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 12, wherein said connected bag set is sterilized by moist heat sterilization and said filter unit is sterilized by gas sterilization or radiation sterilization.

14. (Original) A filter unit which comprises an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from fluid introduced through said inlet, and a tube, both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet, said filter unit being put to use by cutting said tube midway and aseptically connecting the cut tube to another tube.

15. (Original) The filter unit as defined in Claim 14, wherein said tube has a mark that indicates the position of its connection to another tube.

16. (Original) The filter unit as defined in Claim 15, wherein said mark indicates the direction of flow of fluid in the tube.

17. (Currently Amended) The filter unit as defined in ~~any one of Claims 14 to 16~~ Claim 14, wherein said tube has an additional mark indicating that the tube has been correctly connected to another tube.

18. (Original) The filter unit as defined in Claim 17, wherein said additional mark is formed by expanding the outside diameter of the tube.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The filter unit as defined in any one of Claims 14 to 16~~ A connected bag set comprising a filter unit which comprises an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from fluid introduced through said inlet, and a tube, both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet, said filter unit being put to use by cutting said tube midway and aseptically connecting the cut tube to another tube, wherein

said another tube is a tube that connects the primary bag holding collected blood to the secondary bag holding blood or blood components.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The filter unit as defined in any one of Claims 14 to 16~~ A connected bag set comprising a filter unit which comprises an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from fluid introduced through said inlet, and a tube, both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet, said filter unit being put to use by cutting said tube midway and aseptically connecting the cut tube to another tube, wherein said another tube is a tube that connects a plurality of secondary bags to each other, said secondary bags holding blood or blood components.

21. (Currently Amended) The filter unit as defined in ~~any one of Claims 14 to 16~~ Claim 14, said filter unit having a by-pass tube that goes around said filter medium.

22. (Currently Amended) A filter unit to be used in the method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, which comprises an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from fluid introduced through said inlet, and a tube, both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet.

23. (Original) The filter unit as defined in Claim 22, which has an additional mark indicating that the tubes have been correctly connected to each other.

24. (Original) The filter unit as defined in Claim 22, which is sterilized by different methods or under different conditions with respect to said connected bag set.

25. (Original) The filter unit as defined in Claim 24, which is sterilized by gas sterilization or radiation sterilization.